

October 2, 2009

Greetings friends,

As you may know, the Disabilities Issues Office (DIO) is in the process of developing a new provincial disability strategy. The discussion paper *Opening Doors: Manitoba's Commitment to Persons with Disabilities*, was announced on June 4, 2009, and will serve as a basis for the new strategy. The strategy highlights ten key thematic areas for persons with disabilities, as well as outlining key accomplishments, commitments from the 2009/10 budget year and future directions. I have attached the document for your review or please see the website address: www.gov.mb.ca/dio.

The purpose of the discussion paper is to offer an opportunity for disability organizations and affected members of the public to provide their perspective on the proposed future directions. Briefs and comments on the document are welcome and can be made via the above website or by contacting the DIO by phone or e-mail. As a further component of the consultation process, the DIO is planning a thematic expert discussion *Opening Doors* community consultation in Winnipeg.

We would like to invite you and your organizations or agencies to participate in the *Opening Doors* community consultations planned in Winnipeg. The winter consultation will take place:

Thursday, December 3, 2009, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Main Floor, Winnipeg Convention Centre
375 York Avenue
Winnipeg MB

We ask that each participant complete the attached Registration Form selecting the top three (3) priorities for discussion at the consultation. There is no cost to attend and transportation may be reimbursed, upon advance request. Please advise us of any disability accommodations required. Please respond to Tracy MacMillan at the e-mail address provided on the Registration Form.

Hope to see you there!

Regards,

Yutta Fricke
A/Executive Director

REGISTRATION FORM

Name:

Organization:

Address:

Phone/Fax Numbers:

E-mail Address:

Please notify us of the type of accommodation you may need:

Sign Language Interpretation and Lunch will be provided

Please RSVP by November 13th, 2009 to the Disabilities Issues Office:

E-mail: Tracy.MacMillan@gov.mb.ca

Fax: (204) 948-2896

Phone: (204) 945-7613

Toll-Free: 1-800-282-8069, Ext. 7613

THEMATIC TOPIC AREAS:

Please select (√) the top 3 themes that you would like to discuss at the consultations:

- Housing**
- Employment and Income Security**
- Rights and Justice**
- Gender and Diversity**
- Disability Supports**
- Accessibility**
- Education and Training**
- Health Promotion**
- Community Living**
- Smarter Government**